

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 L-03 NSC-05 PM-04 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

EB-07 COME-00 AGR-05 TRSE-00 AID-05 CIEP-01 OMB-01

ITC-01 /066 W

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R 101050Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1479

INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KHARTOUM 1028

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EPAP, SU

SUBJECT:SEVERE DROP IN SUDAN'S COTTON PRODUCTION

REF: KHARTOUM A-7, FEBRUARY 2, 1976

1. KNOWLEDGEABLE COTTON PUBLIC CORPORATION SOURCE TOLD EMBOFF APRIL 8 THAT PRODUCTION OF LONG-STAPLE COTTON NOW EXPECTED NOT TO EXCEED 3000,000 BALES (BALE - 420 LB.) IN 1975-76 SEASON. WITH ADDITION OF 160,000 BALES IN SHORT AND MEDIUM STAPLES, TOTAL WOULD BE ONLY 460,000, COMPARED TO 1,158,000 BALES IN 1974-75. SOURCE ATTRIBUTED LARGE FALL TO NUMBER OF FACTORS, MOST IMPORTANT OF WHICH IS LACK OF INCENTIVES AMONG GEZIRA TENANTS TO WORK HARD ON COTTON CROP (KHARTOUM A-27, APRIL 3, 1976, NOTAL). WHILE GEZIRA ACREAGE HAD BEEN REDUCED BY THIRD, ONLY POORER LANDS WERE TO HAVE BEEN AFFECTED, AND, IN ANY CASE, YIELD PER ACRE WAS REPORTEDLY FAR LESS THAN NORM.

2. COMMENT: DROP IN COTTON PRODUCTION COULD HARDLY HAVE COME AT WORSE TIME WITH WORLD-WIDE DEMAND
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ONCE AGAIN BRISK. TO CERTAIN EXTENT, EFFECTS OF LOSS

MAY BE MITIGATED BY SALES OF SUBSTANTIAL CARRY-OVER
FROM 1975 AND BY HIGHER PRICES, WHICH ARE EXPECTED
BE ANNOUNCED IN MID-APRIL ALONG WITH GOS 1976 COTTON
MARKETING POLICY. NONETHELESS, SITUATION WILL NO
DOUBT PROVE TO BE MAJOR EMBARRASSMENT TO GOS IN
TERMS NOT ONLY OF PERENNIAL FOREIGN EXCHANGE SHORTAGE
BUT ALSO OF INTERNAL POLITICS. OUR HUNCH IS THAT GOS
WILL NOW GIVE URGENT CONSIDERATION TO NEW TAXING
SYSTEM LESS BIASED AGAINST COTTON (KHARTOUM A-27, NOTAL).
CANNOT EXCLUDE POSSIBILITY, HOWEVER, THAT SOME HEADS
WILL ROLL FOR FAILURE WHICH SUDANESE CAN ONLY BLAME
ON THEMSELVES. BREWER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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04 MAY 2006

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TAGS: EPAP, SU
To: STATE
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